

Can I become addicted to midazolam?

Addiction is not a problem when the right dose is taken for the right reason and reviewed correctly. If you no longer need midazolam, your doctor will support you to reduce it gradually. Do not stop taking it suddenly without medical advice.

How should I store midazolam?

Store this medication in a dry place. Keep it at or below 25°C and out of reach of children.

Return any expired or unused midazolam to your community pharmacy so they can dispose of it safely.

How do I get more midazolam?

Contact your GP to arrange a prescription. Take this to your community pharmacy. Do not let your supply run out before requesting the prescription.

Midazolam in supportive & palliative care

Information Leaflet for Patients

What is midazolam used for?

Midazolam belongs to a group of medicines called benzodiazepines. Midazolam is used in palliative care for anxiety, breathlessness, seizures, agitation and restlessness.

Notes



This medicine is ONLY FOR YOU. Never give it to anyone else even if their symptoms appear to be the same as yours.

How do I take my midazolam?

Midazolam is given as an injection.

The recommended strength is:

Midazolam 10mg/2ml injection

Speak to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are given a different strength.

You will start on a low dose. Your health professional will decide the dose and how often you should take it. They may adjust it depending on your symptoms.

It can be given as an infusion using a syringe pump. This delivers the medicine continuously over 24 hours. Your nurse will reload the syringe pump daily.

It can also be given as an injection under the skin to relieve symptoms quickly. Your nurse will administer a dose if required. It may be prescribed in advance of any symptoms developing, just in case it is needed. This is called anticipatory prescribing.

If you find midazolam is not working as well as expected, contact your doctor.

What are the common side effects?

All medicines can cause side effects, though not everyone experiences them. They may include drowsiness, confusion, sleepiness, headaches or dizziness.

It is possible to have other unwanted effects not mentioned in this leaflet. If you have any concerns, contact your doctor, pharmacist, or specialist nurse.

Can I drive when I'm taking midazolam?

You are responsible for ensuring you are fit to drive. Northern Ireland law allows you to drive when taking medicines if your ability is not affected. Do not drive or use machinery if:

- You have recently started taking midazolam and don't know how it affects you
- The dose or frequency has changed recently
- You have taken alcohol along with midazolam
- You feel drowsy or sleepy, or cannot concentrate.

Advice is available at NI Direct:



Is it safe to take other medicines while on midazolam?

Midazolam may increase the effects of other medicines that make you sleepy or dizzy. You may need lower doses of other medicines. Your doctor will adjust doses as needed.

Tell your healthcare professionals what medicines you take, including any you buy in a pharmacy or shop, herbal remedies or recreational drugs.

Can I drink alcohol when I'm taking midazolam?

It is recommended you avoid alcohol while taking midazolam as effects like dizziness or sleepiness can worsen.

Talk to your doctor if you want to discuss this further.